

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MTN GE 01641 041611Z

67

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01

TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 ARA-06

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R 041538Z MAR 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1221

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ACTION STR

PASS AGRICULTURE

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN, AR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE PROPOSAL FOR PLURILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON  
SANITARY PROBLEMS

1. ARLIA AND VICECONTE FROM ARGENTINE MISSION INFORMED  
US THAT ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR MARTINEZ WISHES TO PROPOSE  
PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS TO BE HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES  
OF THE MEAT SUBGROUP SOMETIME IN JUNE. THESE CON-  
SULTATIONS SHOULD INVOLVE, BESIDES ARGENTINA, THE UNITED  
STATES, THE EC, URUGUAY, SWEDEN, AND YUGOSLAVIA.

2. ACCORDING TO ARLIA, THE PURPOSE OF THESE CONSULTATIONS  
IS TO SHOW THE ARGENTINE PUBLIC THAT THE ARGENTINE  
DELEGATION WORKS HARD IN TRYING TO OPEN THE U.S. MARKET  
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PAGE 02 MTN GE 01641 041611Z

AND TO SHOW THE EC THAT PART OF THE TRADITIONAL ARGENTINE

BEEF EXPORTS TO THE EC COULD BE DIVERTED TO THE U.S.  
(THIS IS TO COUNTER THE EC ARGUMENT THAT BECAUSE OF  
SANITARY RESTRICTUIONS IN THE U.S., THE EC CARRIES THE  
MAIN "BURDEN" OF BEEF EXPORTS FROM LATIN AMERICA.)

3. ARGENTINE DELS ASSURED US THAT THEY ARE NOT REALLY  
SEEKING OPENING OF THE U.S. MARKET FOR FRESH, CHILLED  
AND FROZEN BEEF BECAUSE THEY REALIZE THAT U.S. FOOT-  
AND-MOUTH DISEASE REGULATIONS MAKE THIS IMPOSSIBLE.  
THEY BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT OUR REGULATIONS WHICH DO  
PERMIT THE IMPORTATION OF COOKED BEEF FROM ARGENTINA  
COULD BE SLIGHTLY RELAXED WHICH WOULD ENABLE ARGENTINA  
TO SHIP COOKED BEEF OF HIGHER QUALITY TO THE U.S.  
AND THUS ENHANCE ITS MARKET SHARE.

4. THE PRESENCE OF SWEDEN AND YUGOSLAVIA IS DEEMED  
DESIRABLE BY ARGENTINA BECAUSE SWEDEN IMPORTS BEEF  
FROM YUGOSLAVIA NOTWITHSTANDING A GENERAL SANITARY  
REGULATION IN SWEDEN WHICH BANS BEEF FROM AREAS WHERE  
FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE IS ENDEMIC (LIKE IN YUGOSLAVIA).

5. WE TOLD ARLIA THAT WE UNDERSTAND ARGENTINA'S  
PROBLEMS AND WOULD LIKE TO HELP THEM. THUS, WE WOULD  
NOT OBJECT TO PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WHICH ARE  
WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THE SUBGROUP ON MEAT. HOWEVER,  
WE ALSO TOLD ARLIA THAT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN VETERINARIANS  
ALONE MIGHT NOT BE PRODUCTIVE FOR THEY MAY NOT BE  
RECEPTIVE TO EXPLORING POSSIBLE WAYS OF ALLEVIATING  
TRADE PROBLEMS. AT ANY RATE, WE TOLD ARLIA THAT WE  
WOULD BRING THIS MATTER TO WASHINGTON'S ATTENTION AND  
WILL LET HIM KNOW THE REACTION.

6. COMMENT: THE ARGENTINIANS APPARENTLY BELIEVE THAT  
PLURILATERAL TECHNICAL CONSULTATIONS ON VETERINARY  
MATTERS HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE MTN WOULD GIVE  
HEAVIER WEIGHT TO THEIR DEMAND FOR THE RELAXATION OF  
SANITARY IMPORT REGULATIONS BY THE U.S. AND OTHER  
COUNTRIES (SWEDEN, JAPAN) THAN BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS  
HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH, BUT OUTSIDE, THE MTN. HOW-  
EVER, CONSULTATIONS HELD BY VETERINARIANS ALONE MAY  
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PAGE 03 MTN GE 01641 041611Z

NOT BE PRODUCTIVE BECAUSE THE U.S., AS WELL AS FOREIGN,  
VETERINARIANS ARE BOUND BY THE DOMESTIC LEGISLATION  
WHICH ALLOWS HARDLY ANY ROOM FOR MANEUVER AND IS THERE-  
FORE NOT NEGOTIABLE. ALSO, TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS ON  
WHAT ARE INDEED "STANDARDS" MAY DETRACT FROM THE  
ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE STANDARD CODE WHICH WOULD PROVIDE  
FOR CONSULTATIONS INTER ALIA ALSO ON VETERINARY  
MATTERS.

7. SINCE, HOWEVER, IT DOES NOT SEEM TO BE EXPEDIENT TO REJECT THE ARGENTINIAN IDEA FOR A MEETING DEVOTED TO SANITARY AND VETERINARY MATTERS, WE RECOMMEND WASHINGTON AUTHORIZE US TO ACCEPT IT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN THE PRESENCE OF EXPERTS BUT WOULD NOT BE A MEETING OF EXPERTS EXCLUSIVELY. IN THIS WAY, WE WOULD BE ABLE TO ADDRESS OURSELVES TO PURELY TECHNICAL MATTERS BUT KEEP SUCH TECHNICAL DISCUSSION UNDER CONTROL AND TRY TO PREVENT IT FROM BECOMING A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN INCOMPATIBLE POINTS OF VIEW. END COMMENT. WALKER

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